



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
April 1, 2010

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### **Public Invited to Regional Health Information Technology Workshops**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The State Health Information Technology Advisory Committee invites the public to attend one of four regional workshops to learn more about the plans in place to facilitate the electronic exchange of health information in a manner that is safe, secure and fast.

The committee's goal for the meetings is to provide information about health information exchange and to seek input into the system's planning and design. The committee will be seeking consumers' concerns and interests and providing information about efforts in developing and implementing the model for statewide health information exchange.

"Many people are frustrated when they have to provide the same health and insurance information several times when visiting more than one doctor," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "Or when they fill out forms to transfer their records to another clinic and the records haven't made it there when they arrive for their appointment. The electronic exchange of health information can address those issues by exchanging information in a safe, secure and fast manner."

The State Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) was established by the 2009 Legislative Assembly to facilitate the establishment of health information standards and exchange practices for North Dakota. The HITAC and its consultants, Hielex/Mednet, will be facilitating four upcoming workshops in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot:

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| DATE               | CITY           | LOCATION   | Time                      |
|--------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 6   | Fargo          | FARGODOME –<br>Meeting Room 201 – Mezzanine<br>Level | 6:30 p.m. to 8:30<br>p.m. |
| Thursday, April 8  | Grand<br>Forks | UND Center for Innovation –<br>Idea Lab              | 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.          |
| Tuesday, April 13  | Minot          | Minot State University –<br>Old Main Room 106        | 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.          |
| Thursday, April 15 | Bismarck       | Bismarck State College –<br>NECE Auditorium          | 6:30 p.m. to 8:30<br>p.m. |

“These workshops offer a unique opportunity for North Dakota residents to shape the statewide future of health information exchange,” Dwelle said.

For more information, please contact Darin Meschke at 701.328.2494 or [dmeschke@nd.gov](mailto:dmeschke@nd.gov) or Deborah Mosset at 701.328.1004 or [dmosset@nd.gov](mailto:dmosset@nd.gov).

The following committee members will be available for media interviews at the workshops:

- Fargo: Sheldon Wolf, North Dakota Information Technology Department, and Craig Hewitt, MeritCare Health System
- Grand Forks: Sheldon Wolf, North Dakota Information Technology Department, and Lynette Dickson, Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota
- Minot: Lisa Feldner, North Dakota Information Technology Department, and Nancy Willis, consumer representative
- Bismarck: Sheldon Wolf, North Dakota Information technology Department, and Nancy Willis, consumer representative

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